



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM SDDVA SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN

This Fourth of July, we might find ourselves barbecuing, gathering with family and friends, discharging fireworks, and enjoying concerts. But July Fourth is a time to step back and reflect on the freedoms we enjoy every day. The freedoms that have been fought for, for centuries. The freedoms that we have gained through many wars of this great nation.

The fourth of July is the date the second continental congress adopted the Declaration of Independence – the day the founders approved one of America's most treasured documents. What we are truly celebrating on Independence Day is the Declaration of Independence and the spirit of principles that it so eloquently articulates – "That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that

among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

As Americans, we need to embody the values our country was built on, we need to honor the sacrifices of those lost in the defense of freedom and we need to remember those still in harm's way.

I think the words of Lee Greenwood sum it up best for me, "And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me."

Enjoy your independence  
South Dakota.



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Heroes Among Us—  
showcasing 125 South Dakota veterans.



## BREN RECOGNIZED FOR HIS SERVICE TO SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS

Don Bren, having served eight years in the United States Air Force, continued his service to this great country by serving as a DAV van driver.

Don was recognized last week by the Brookings County Commission for his dedication. Governor Daugaard has proclaimed June 28th as "Don Bren Day" in South Dakota. In his proclamation, Gov. Daugaard commends Don for logging over 2,500 hours in support of and for driving over 15,000 miles as a VA Voluntary Service DAV Van Driver.

Joining Bren for his presentation were: Irene Pierce, DAV Van Coordinator for Brookings County, Commissioner Don Larson and DAV Brookings Chapter 22 Commander Bob Hill.



## SDNG GETS RECOGNITION ON DAVID LETTERMAN SHOW

General Frank Grass (Four-Star General who is the Chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC) was a guest on the David Letterman Show this week. During his dialogue with Letterman, Grass made brief mention of the South Dakota National Guard's response to the tornado and flood events in South Dakota.

Below are the YouTube links to the GEN. Grass interview:  
( Part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BijfUnl4DIY>  
(Part 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g2TWbZs1hQ>

Special thanks to all the SDNG members who, again, assisted South Dakota communities and families during these disastrous events!!!!!!





## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

We've all heard of Christmas in July!!!!!! And this week the buildings and grounds staff found out that Santa Claus does deliver packages twice a year!!!!!!

Monday when the John Deere Implement Dealer delivered the two new mowers ordered for the home, Superintendent Richardson and Operations Director Meyers decided to hand deliver them to the buildings and grounds staff. And the race was on!!!!!!

Everyone is going to want to mow now!!!!!!

Thanks Santa "Zimmerman" Claus for approving the purchase for the team!!!!!!



The race is on — Superintendent Richardson vs Operations Director Meyers! A little behind in the race, Richardson tries to distract Meyers by asking questions about different gadgets! Meyers, using that selective hearing technique doesn't fall for the trick and keeps mowing forward!!!!!!

## SDDVA DONATES JEAN DAY FUNDS TO WESSINGTON SPRINGS RELIEF FUND

SDDVA employees donated funds from their "jeans fund" to the Wessington Springs Relief Fund.

"SDDVA employees are allowed to wear jeans on Friday if they contribute \$1 to the "jean fund," said SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman. "We then ask the team to find projects/charities to contribute the monies to. It's a win/win."

In the past, most of the contributions have gone toward projects benefitting South Dakota's veterans and the MJF State Veterans Home.



## CABELA'S HONORS HOMETOWN HEROES

Cabela's stores nationwide will honor the contributions of those who serve our country and communities by offering employee pricing to all veterans, active duty military and reserves, law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS personnel beginning Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, June 29. The *Hometown Heroes* event recognizes the service and sacrifice of those who protect and serve every day.

"Cabela's values the contributions of our nation's military and service personnel," said Cabela's Chief Executive Officer Tommy Miller. "Making them honorary employees, and extending our employee discount to them as we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, is our way of saying thank you for keeping us safe."

To participate in the *Hometown Heroes* event, veterans, active duty military, reserves, law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel should present their service ID at check out at their local Cabela's store. Upon doing so, they will receive Cabela's employee discount on virtually everything in the store. Some restrictions apply; see store for complete details.



### COURAGE TO CALL

**Courage to Call** provides free, confidential information, support and referrals to military members and their families in Sioux Falls.



**DIAL 2-1-1**

- Financial Assistance
- Family Conflicts
- Housing
- Crisis Support
- Addictions
- Education
- Benefits

Search online for resources  
**helplinecenter.org**



### 211 Offers Military Families Hope, Help

The Helpline Center stands ready to help Sioux Falls area service members, Veterans and their families when they have simple questions, or when they need serious help, through its Military and Family Support Program.

The Military and Family Support program connects those who have sacrificed for our country with the help they deserve through its 211 phoneline, answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Help and Hope are just three simple numbers away.

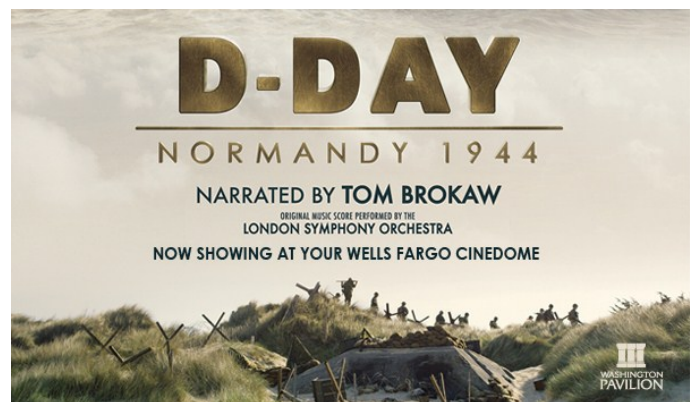
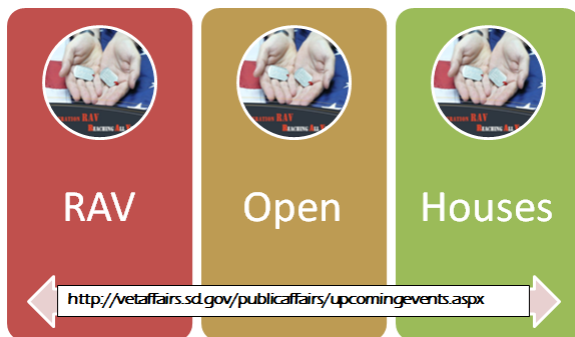
The Helpline Center also provides an online database of resources for its Military and Family Support program. Visit [helplinecenter.org](http://helplinecenter.org) to find specific military resources, military discounts at local stores, an events calendar, educational information and much more.



# Upcoming Events

## 2014

Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
 Jul. 9—Brass Choir from the 147th Army Band will perform at SFVAHCS—CLC3  
 Jul. 9—Patriotic Concert at the Veterans Memorial Park -147th Army Band will perform—7:00 pm  
 Jul. 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am  
 Aug. 6—DOL Veterans/Guardsmen/Reservists/Spouses Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm  
 Aug. 20—Annual SFVAHCS Show and Shine  
 Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux City, IA  
 Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Aug. 28 Chamber of Commerce Job Fair—American Legion Post—10:00 am  
 Sept. 5—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Watertown  
 Sept. 11—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Wagner  
 Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls  
 Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am



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